

FBI

Date: 2/11/69

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
 FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)
 SUBJECT: MURKIN

ReBuairtel 2/4/69 directing Memphis to interview
 Rev. JAMES LAWSON.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 3 copies of an FD-302
 reflecting interview of Rev. LAWSON on 2/11/69 at Memphis.

Information furnished by Rev. LAWSON regarding the
 transfer of the 2 Negro firemen and the Negro police officer
 from the fire station near the Lorraine Motel just prior to the
 murder of KING has been covered in Memphis LHM dated 11/21/68,
 which LHM also reflected the interview of [REDACTED] by
 Mr. J. HAROLD FLANNERY of the Justice Dept. LAWSON furnished
 no new information and it is not felt that this matter warrants
 further inquiry.

It is the opinion of the interviewing Agents that
 LAWSON is a dangerous rabble rousing individual not worthy of
 being considered a leader of any group. He openly admits
 distrust of the police and of the FBI. He admits to having no
 facts but does not seem embarrassed to openly advocate his theory
 that KING's murder resulted from a conspiracy. He mentioned
 the story that was told early in this investigation by JOHN
 MC FERREN regarding his having overheard a conversation in a
 local vegetable market which conversation would indicate that
 the market owner, [REDACTED] and persons from New Orleans
 were part of the murder conspiracy. As the Bureau is well
 aware, MC FERREN's story has been thoroughly investigated and
 has been found to be entirely without substance.

Airtel
 Teletype

(3) - Bureau (Encs. 3)
 3 - Memphis (2 - 44-1987)
 (1 - 170-98-Rev. JAMES M. LAWSON)

A.M.S.D. JCH:cjs
 (8)

Spec. Del.

Reg. Mail

Approved: _____

Registered _____ Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per _____

REC-76 44-1987-5557

FEB 13 1969

EB 20 1969

ME 44-1987

LAWSON was advised that the Bureau would be most interested in receiving any additional information which might come into his possession. In view of LAWSON's attitude toward the Bureau, it is suggested that we initiate no further contact with LAWSON if it can possibly be avoided.